DTH

492. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that in view of non-control over DTH on pricing of channels as has been done in case of CAS, the existing DTH service providers are charging exorbitant prices on pay channels to the detriment of the customers;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken this issue before TRAI to rein in existing broadcasters from DTH companies; and

(c) if so, the outcome of such an initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has informed that a comparison of entry level package prices of a few DTH operators with the CAS offering brings out the fact that pricing of DTH channels does not appear to be exorbitant. For example DISH TV, a DTH operator has one entry level package (Silver Pack) starting at Rs.99 + taxes containing 110 channels and services [both Pay and Free to Air (FTA) channels]. At the highest level of subscriber packages, the same DTH operator charges Rs. 275/- + taxes for platinum Pack containing 165 channels and services (both pay and FTA channels, As against this, another DTH operator *i.e.* Tata Sky has a Base Package (Super Hit Pack) of Rs. 125/- including taxes containing 60 channels (both Pay and FTA). At the highest level of subscriber packages, the same DTH operator charges Rs. 275/- inclusive of taxes for Super Saver Pack containing 123 channels (both Pay and FTA channels). Compared to these package prices, a subscriber under the CAS regime has to pay a minimum of Rs.82/- excluding taxes and Rs. 5.35 for each Pay channel that subscriber wants to subscribe to. In view of the above, the price offering in case of DTH services *vis-a-vis* CAS is not at a wide variance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Need for censoring of television content

†493. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose behind getting certificate/permission from the Censor Board for public screening of films;

(b) the difference between the public screening of films and broadcasting by television channels;

(c) if not, the reasons for not obtaining permission/certificate from the Censor Board for the advertisement, serials broadcast by television channels; and

(d) whether Government is going to develop any kind of system in this regard with the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.